

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00 PM-04 SS-15
COME-00 TRSE-00 ARA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ISO-00 /097 W
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O R 081813Z MAR 77 CCY ADDRESSEE ADDED
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1381
USERDA HQ WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USERDA HQ GERMANTOWN MD IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03894

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (USERDA GERMANTOWN AND WASHDC ADDED
AS ACTION ADDEES)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH ENRG UK EC
SUBJECT: US SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO EUROPE

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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FRONT PAGE FINANCIAL TIMES
ARTICLE OF MARCH 8, "US ENERGY POLICY REVIEW THREATENS
EUROPEAN REACTORS," STATES THAT SOME OF EUROPE'S MOST
ADVANCED NUCLEAR FACILITIES ARE THREATENED WITH CLOSURE
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BECAUSE US SUPPLIES OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM FOR WEST
GERMANY'S RESEARCH AND PROTOTYPE REACTOR PROGRAMS HAVE
BEEN REDUCED TO A TRICKLE. NUKEM, THE GERMAN FUEL FABRI-
CATION FIRM, IS CITED AS SAYING THE FRG WILL HAVE RUN OUT
OF HIGHLY ENRICHED FUEL BY MIDSUMMER IF THE DIFFICULTIES
PERSIST. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ARE QUOTED AS STAT-
ING THERE ARE "NO EFFORTS UNDERWAY FOR A CONCERTED

SLOWDOWN" OF EXPORTS TO GERMANY, DENYING BONN HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT AND INSISTING THERE IS NO DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN REDUCTION OF FUEL EXPORTS AND US ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE GERMANS NOT TO SELL ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL.

2. FT ALSO REPORTS THAT BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS (BNFL) CONFIRMED IT HAD RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM NUKEM TO HELP WITH SUPPLIES OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM. HAVING NO SUPPLIES OF ITS OWN, BNFL PURPORTEDLY PASSED THE REQUEST TO HMG WHICH HAS NOT YET MADE ANY DECISION ON WHETHER BRITAIN MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE ANY SURPLUS TO GERMANY. FT OBSERVES MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH OBTAINS HIGHLY ENRICHED MATERIAL FROM US UNDER BARTER AGREEMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR BRITISH PLUTONIUM IS UNLIKELY TO RISK JEOPARDIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE USG BY AIDING THE WEST GERMANS. SECOND POSSIBLE UK SOURCE IS SAID TO BE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, THROUGH THE UKAEA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: WILMSHURST (FCO) INFORMS US THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN FT REPORT OF ALLEGED GERMAN REQUEST FOR ENRICHED MATERIAL. NUKEM HAS TOLD UKAEA THAT IT DOES NOT WANT ANY FUEL FROM THE UK. HAVING BOUGHT ENRICHED URANIUM FROM THE US, NUKEM INTENDS TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE US NUCLEAR POLICY REVIEW.

4. WILMSHURST VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD BEEN "INCREDIBLY RELIEVED" TO LEARN THAT NUKEM HAD NOT SOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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UKAEA FUEL. HE HAD BEEN BRIEFLY DISTURBED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONFLICT BETWEEN UK OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE EURATOM TREATY REQUIRING BRITAIN TO ASSURE FREE ACCESS TO AVAILABLE NUCLEAR MATERIALS TO FELLOW EC MEMBER STATES AND UK OBLIGATIONS PURSUANT TO ITS BILATERAL WITH THE US. END CONFIDENTIAL.

MILLER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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